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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Report of the Third Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Mrs. Mónica MARTÍNEZ (Ecuador)

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled:

"Human rights questions:

- (a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
- (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
- (d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
- (e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on agenda item 112 will be issued in six parts, under the symbol A/52/644 and Add.1-5.



(a) Relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/52/3);¹

(b) Letter dated 14 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/116-S/1997/317);

(c) Letter dated 5 June 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/173);

(d) Note verbale dated 17 July 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/254-S/1997/567);

(e) Letter dated 28 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/262);

(f) Letter dated 15 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/286-S/1997/647);

(g) Letter dated 25 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/301-S/1997/668);

(h) Letter dated 28 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the declarations of the Eleventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, held at Asunción on 23 and 24 August 1997 (A/52/347);

(i) Letter dated 1 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the Fifty-second Session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 25 September 1997 (A/52/447-S/1997/775);

(j) Letter dated 2 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Medellín Declaration for Cultural Diversity and Tolerance and the Plan of Action on Cultural Cooperation adopted at the First Meeting of Ministers of Culture of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Medellín, Colombia, on 4 and 5 September 1997 (A/52/432);

(k) Letter dated 6 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/437);

¹ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1).

(l) Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of China and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/589-S/1997/871);

(m) Letter dated 19 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the joint statement issued by the Heads of State and Government of countries of South-Eastern Europe at their meeting held at Heracleion, Crete, on 4 November 1997 (A/52/691-S/1997/910);

(n) Letter dated 19 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/52/9).

3. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 112 (a):

(a) Report of the Human Rights Committee;²

(b) Report of the Committee against Torture;³

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/52/359);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/52/387);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (A/52/445);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/52/446);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the eighth meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies (A/52/507);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General on the question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights (A/52/511);

² Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 40 (A/52/40), vol. I.

³ Ibid., Supplement No. 44 (A/52/44).

(i) Letter dated 12 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/182).

4. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 112 (b):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/52/468);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights (A/52/469 and Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections (A/52/474);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the rule of law (A/52/475);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (A/52/489);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/52/494);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/52/498);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of United Nations personnel and their families (A/52/548 and Corr.1);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/52/473);

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance (A/52/477 and Add.1);

(k) Note by the Secretary-General on human rights and terrorism (A/52/483);

(l) Note by the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/52/567);

(m) Letter dated 30 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement on elections in the Gambia by the European Union (A/52/66);

(n) Letter dated 24 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/81-S/1997/153);

(o) Letter dated 3 March 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/85-S/1997/180);

(p) Letter dated 18 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement on Cameroon by the European Union (A/52/117);

(q) Letter dated 23 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/125-S/1997/334);

(r) Letter dated 2 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement on elections in Croatia by the European Union (A/52/133-S/1997/348);

(s) Letter dated 2 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement by the European Union on the occasion of the granting of autonomous trade preferences to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/52/134-S/1997/349);

(t) Letter dated 2 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement on Belarus by the European Union (A/52/135);

(u) Letter dated 15 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement on Cameroon by the European Union (A/52/151);

(v) Letter dated 12 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/182);

(w) Letter dated 19 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement by the European Union on the trial of 20 ethnic Albanians in Kosovo (A/52/204);

(x) Letter dated 19 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement by the European Union on the murder of two members of the Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular (Colombia) (A/52/205);

(y) Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/52/6).

5. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-item 112 (c):

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia (A/52/497);

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- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Kosovo (A/52/502);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Haiti (A/52/515);
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/52/587);
- (e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/52/472);
- (f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/52/476);
- (g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Cuba (A/52/479);
- (h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/52/484);
- (i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (A/52/486 and Add.1/Rev.1);
- (j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/52/490);
- (k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/52/493);
- (l) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) (A/52/496);
- (m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti (A/52/499);
- (n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Burundi (A/52/505);
- (o) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of his representative on internally displaced persons (A/52/506);

(p) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (A/52/510);

(q) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Rwanda (A/52/522);

(r) Note by the Secretary-General on the human rights situation in southern Lebanon and West Bekaa (A/52/527);

(s) Note by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Nigeria (A/52/583);

(t) Letter dated 15 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by the European Union (A/52/61-S/1997/68);

(u) Letter dated 27 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/64);

(v) Letter dated 23 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/125-S/1997/334);

(w) Letter dated 2 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a statement on Myanmar by the European Union (A/52/170);

(x) Letter dated 7 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/52/2);

(y) Letter dated 13 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/52/4);

(z) Letter dated 11 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/52/5);

(aa) Letter dated 14 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/52/7);

(bb) Letter dated 20 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/52/10).

6. The Committee also had before it the following documents under sub-items 112 (d) and (e):

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;⁴

⁴ Ibid., Supplement No. 36 (A/52/36).

A/52/644

English

Page 8

(b) Letter dated 12 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/52/182).
